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## **Peace Officers Memorial Service Slated for May 17 at Noon**

*Sixteenth Annual Service to Honor and Remember City-County-State Law Enforcement*

Salisbury, NC\_May 11, 2011 – The 2011 Rowan County Peace Officers Memorial Service will take place on Tuesday, May 17 at First Presbyterian Church, 308 W. Fisher Street. The annual ceremony honors law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty and recognizes those who continue to serve daily. Citizens are encouraged to attend the noon service, which is held in tandem with National Police Week, May 15-21.

Each year, the ceremony unites the Salisbury Police Department and the Rowan County Sheriff's Office. Together, these dedicated law enforcement officials pay tribute to their fallen brothers and sisters at arms. Prior to the service commencement, the Law Enforcement Explorers will perform the placing of the wreath, followed by a musical prelude by Stephen Stringer. The service will begin with the Salisbury Police Honor Guard's posting of colors at precisely 12 noon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance as led by the Law Enforcement Explorers. The invocation will be offered by Dr. Randal V. Kirby, Associate Minister of First Presbyterian Church, with Rowan County Sheriff Kevin Auten and Salisbury Police Deputy Chief Steve Whitley welcoming those in attendance.

Speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council, Mayor Susan Kluttz states, "I cordially invite the public to attend this heart-felt ceremony as together we pay tribute to those so devoted to the preservation of liberty, justice, and peace. These courageous heroes offered their last great measure of devotion in order to serve and protect. As a community, we embrace the parents, families, and friends of these fallen law enforcement professionals and offer our sincere compassion and prayers. The memories of these brave officers will live on in our hearts for eternity." Mayor Kluttz continues, "We also take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to all law enforcement officers for the valiant service they provide throughout our community. We pray for their continued safe return home to family and friends each day. It is with the greatest dignity and respect that we express our appreciation to our many law enforcement professionals. You serve a far greater purpose than yourselves and for that sincere dedication, we offer our everlasting gratitude."

Lieutenant Debbie Yokley will share a musical rendition of "Remember Me." Harriet Pinkston will supply piano accompaniment. Rowan County Sheriff's Office Chaplain Mike Taylor will offer the scripture lesson and Mike Oney will follow with a special musical presentation of "You Raise Me Up."

Salisbury Police Lieutenant Karen Barbee, serving as Honor Guard Commander for the service, will conduct the altar ritual/final inspection of the wreath. Recognition of state and local roll calls of honor and officers reverently remembered will follow.

The State of North Carolina Roll Call of Honor will commence as Chaplain Harold Bumby, Salisbury Police Department, remembers those deputies, troopers, and police officers who have fallen in the line of duty from May 2010-May 2011. Those to be recognized are as follows:

Inspector Timothy Charles Barnes, 07-28- 2010, NC Department of Motor Vehicles  
Deputy Sheriff Jon-Michael Willis, 07-28-2010, Greene County Sheriff's Office

Salisbury Police Department Chaplain Harvey Rice will follow by recognizing and honoring the Rowan County Roll Call of Honor. Rowan County deputies, police officers, and a sheriff, fallen in the line of duty prior to 2010, will be remembered. Those to be recognized are as follows:

Deputy Chief Linzy J. Yarbrough, 06-03-1927, Rowan County Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff William Locke McKenzie, 07-16-1931, Rowan County Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Danny R. Griffin, 06-03-1986, Rowan County Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Rick Bauguess, 11-01-1988, Rowan County Sheriff's Office  
Officer Roger Dale Carter, 12-31-1993, Kannapolis Police Department  
Deputy John Beck, 01-27-1994, Rowan County Sheriff's Office  
Officer Robert Clement, 06-03-1999, Spencer Police Department  
Deputy Rick Hillard, 10-17-1999, Rowan County Sheriff's Office

Salisbury Police Department Chaplain Tom Teichrow will offer a moment of silence in reverent remembrance for local law enforcement officers. Those to be recognized and remembered include:

Officer Fred Thornton, 02-25-2011, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department  
Rowan County Deputy Sheriff Robert William Harrison, 04-27-2011  
Rowan County Deputy Sheriff Earnest Gary Cress, 06-19-2010

As is customary at the service, a memorial wreath will include placement of flowers in tribute to law enforcement personnel. A white rose placed within the wreath will honor those who continue to serve and protect. Red roses included in the floral arrangement will signify North Carolina officers who died in the line of duty from May 13, 2010 to May 13, 2011 and Rowan County officers who have died in the line of duty since 1927. One blue carnation within the arrangement will honor all officers reverently remembered.

Chaplain Russ Williams of the Salisbury Police Department will offer the final benediction as the congregation is dismissed to the outside courtyard area. The colors and wreath will be retired to the outdoor area as well. The Rowan County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard will offer the traditional 21-gun salute in honor of those remembered during the service. The ceremony will conclude with a trumpeter's rendition of "Taps" by Salisbury Master Police Officer Mark Shue.

Salisbury Police Chief Rory B. Collins shares, “We encourage our citizens to attend this memorial service as we honor those brave men and women who so selflessly gave their lives in service for others. The loss for their families is beyond measure and we offer our sincere comfort and prayers. The dedication and unyielding valor of these officers will never be forgotten. Their insistent desire to protect and serve others will remain a beacon unto our hearts forever.”

For questions regarding National Police Week, please contact Salisbury Police Community Service Officer Ann Cooper at 704-638-4463. Officer Cooper offers, “Each year, we endeavor to follow state and national protocol to ensure that these dedicated officers are remembered with the highest level of dignity and respect. The names of the North Carolina Roll Call of Honor recipients are carved into stone at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC. To learn more about the memorial and National Police Week, please visit [www.nleomf.org](http://www.nleomf.org).”

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